The Spark Gap

WA1TKZ

JANUARY 1981

Book VII Vol I

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

MESSAGE FAIR

December was a very busy month with the week long Natick Mall Message Fair from December 8th through the 13th. We sent over 800 messages this year and introduced many people to the world of Amateur Radio. Complete details of the week are on pages 3 through 5. □

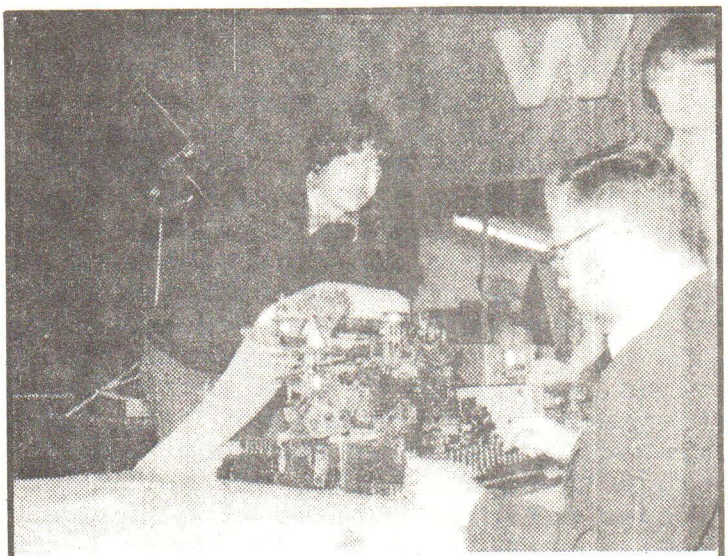
BANQUET

The first and probably last banquet was held December 18th at Valle's Steak House in Newton. Attendance was only eight, disappointingly small for a group the size of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society. Judging by this lack of interest it is unlikely that a similar event will be held unless some reason why this particular time was bad can be found.

Those who did attend had a good time and a good meal. Good conversation flowed during the meal and at the lounge afterwords where the gathering did not break up until about 10:00 pm.□

Dues Dues Dues...

Dues for the 1980/81 club year are $8.00 and can be paid to club treasurer Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, 46 Hobson Street, Brighton, Mass. 02135 or can be brought to any club meeting held the first and third Thursday of each month. □



Mort Cohen, KA1IU, operates RTTY as David Kent, N2AWG, and Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, watch during the Natick Mall Message Fair.

Hereabouts...

There will be an executive meeting held in January to discuss the repeater and other matters. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at the club. Starting time will be about 7:00 pm. All interested are invited to attend in addition to the executive committee. □

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

January 8, 1981 at 7:30 pm

January 22, 1981 at 7:30 pm

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Nr 105, Dated October 16, 1980:

In a news release dated October 14, FCC reminded all radio amateurs that the three new high frequency bands approved by the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference are not yet authorized for their use. The date for exclusive availability world wide for amateur use is July 1, 1989. The FCC plans to advance this time table considerably for U.S. participation. January 1982 is the effective date for development of a draft allocation table which will assign new frequencies to the fixed services now using the 10, 18 and 24 MHz bands. During the next two or three years slow and easy transition will take place phasing out users such as AT&T, RCA, Army, Navy, Air Force and others. At the end of this time period most of the fixed services will have been reaccommodated and amateurs may be allowed to use the bands. This will be on a shared basis if reaccommodation has not been completed. New amateur equipment may include these new bands, but until FCC issues official notification, amateur radio operators may not use the 10, 18 or 24 MHz bands.

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Nr 122, Dated November 25, 1980:

The FCC has just begun distribution of the August 1980 version of the FCC Form 610. ARRL should have them within the next few days. The new version is expected to be easier to use and cover all requests involving primary station and operator licenses.

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Nr 118, Dated November 20, 1980:

Amateur rules are headed for simpler language according to a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted by the Federal Communications Commission on November 18. Deadline for comment is June 19, 1981 with replies due July 19, 1981. Details will not be available for several days. A further bulletin will be transmitted by this station when additional information is available. In another action, the Commission extended the deadline for comment on Docket 80 184 to January 9, with reply comments due January 23. This concerns the second Notice of Inquiry in preparation for a special World Administrative Radio Conference in 1982, confined to certain mobile matters. One question raised by the inquiry deals with a band amateurs share with the mobile service, 1850 to 2000 kHz ARRL will file comments explaining why the band is not suited for the proposed use. Further information will appear in the January issue of QST.

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Nr 131, Dated December 9, 1980:

FCC has announced Phase Three of its amateur call sign system, beginning with amateur applications received by the Commission on or after December 15, 1980. Licensees who do not already hold a call sign reflecting their class of license may request a call sign change. All call signs are selected by the Commission, and requests by amateurs for specific call signs will not be honored. If you already hold a call sign reflecting your class of license, you are not eligible for a call sign change unless you are changing your mailing address to a new call sign district. All amateurs have the option of keeping their present call signs under all circumstances, even if moving to another call sign district or upgrading to a higher class license. An unexpired secondary station call sign may be requested by its licensee as the primary station call sign at any time before expiration of the secondary station license. Effective with Phase Three, all amateur applications must be made on the new August 1980 version of the FCC Form 610. Do not use obsolete 610 Forms to request call sign changes or to apply for a higher class license. Details will appear in February QST. New 610 Forms are available from ARRL Headquarters. A self addressed envelope will be appreciated. □

hr REPORT

AMSAT's Phase IIIB satellite now has a confirmed launch date of February 24, 1982 aboard Ariene launch L7, according to the November/December issue of ORBIT. AMSAT is in need of donations via AMSAT, P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C. 20044 to allow for a quick completion of the new satellite. □

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Next Spark Gap deadline is 1/15/81.

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

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32 WESTGATE ROAD, APT. 6
CHESTNUT HILL, MASS. 02167
323-5029

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SENT THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

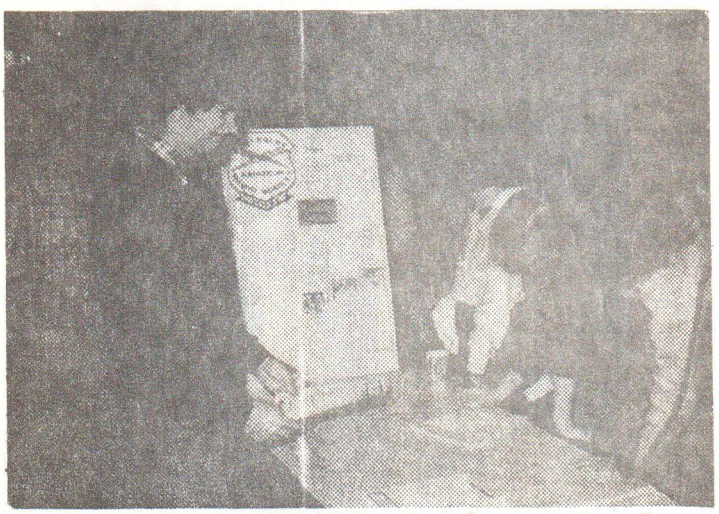
MESSAGE FAIR

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

The 1980 version of the Natick Mall Message Fair was successfully run from December 8 through December 13. In addition we attempted a one afternoon message fair in Wellesley at the request of the Chamber of Commerce on the day after we closed down in Natick, December 14, but this was less successful.

Actually the event started Sunday, December 7 when we set up early in the morning before the mall opened. Our experience after a few years of doing this showed clearly as everything was installed in record time, only about three hours (we should be so fast on Field Day!). If you consider this involved raising a tower with a tribander on it, an 80 meter dipole, and two vhf antennas plus running 200 foot lengths of cable for each antenna off the roof, through the wall and across the mall ceiling it's apparent that this is a lot accomplished in a short time.

Operation began Monday night with a large group of operators on hand very early to get everything into operation. The first three nights were very slow, the mall almost seemed deserted considering this is holiday shopping time. As a result we only took about 150 messages these days, much less than previous years. Things soon picked up though and Friday night was as busy as it always is. With a full twelve hours of operation on Saturday we just broke 800 messages with a big push the last hour when this goal was in sight. This is about the same as last years total and also comparable with earlier years so it would seem that our traffic totals are never going to change much from one year to the next.



Dave Kent, N2AWG, taking one of over 800 messages at the mall.

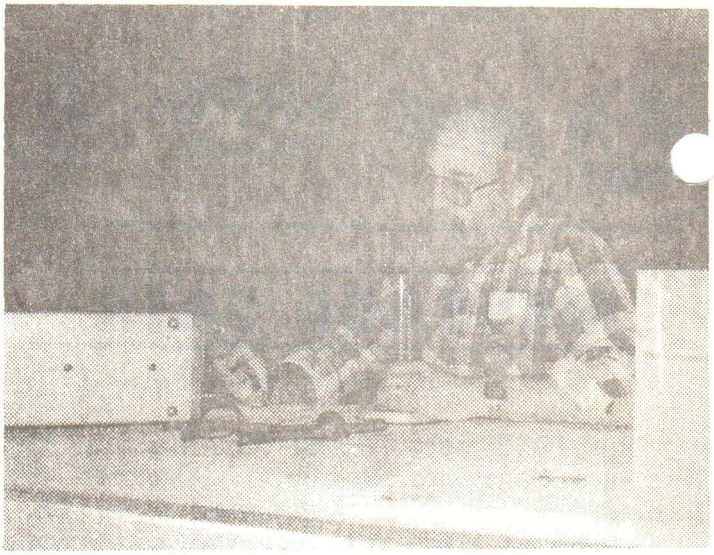
In addition to taking messages we once again had some displays. Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, made a whole bunch of signs explaining how to fill out the message forms and how messages get routed through NTS. In addition, his signs showed some of the activities of the W.A.R.S. by taking pages from last years Spark Gap issues and attractively mounting them. Mort Cohan, KA1IU, put together an OSCAR display with an OSCAR tracker, some QSL cards for satellite contacts, satellite awards and so on. To go with his display we also had the OSCAR 8 model built by K1UR for last years mall and a model of OSCAR 7 provided by the

ARRL. Along with our banners hanging high in the mall, these helped attract attention from far down the mall.

Repeating from last year we had the RTTY setup with the electronics from Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, and the teletype itself from the W1YK gang. This once again proved to be our most crowd pleasing display as it was so noisy it couldn't help but attract attention to itself. We had some good contacts on it too, including some DX such as LU, YV, SM, and DA, and passed quite a bit of traffic also. That 60 year old Model 15 was definitely kept very busy.

Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, and others watch as Dave Kent, N2AWG, operates the RTTY station.

Mort Cohan, KA1IU, and the OSCAR display and satellites.



Saul Dinman, K1PDX, busy passing traffic on 75 meters.

We also spent a little time working the ARRL 10 meter contest on Saturday morning before things got busy and for a short time operating had a nice log to show off. Included was a contact with 5V2B which no one at the mall could figure out (no one had thought to bring a countries list). We finally got WA1TBY on the repeater to look it up and his comment was, "You worked that?!" Turned out to be the country of Togo, in western Africa.

The new message forms we used this year turned out to be very successful. Instead of everyone wanting to make up their own message, we got almost 100% ARL coded messages which speeded things up a lot. Just having to check off a message on the form made it a lot easier for those filling the messages out too.

Finally, we should mention all those who took part in the mall operation and thus did their share in publicizing the world of Amateur Radio and spreading a little holiday cheer. Erik Thoresen, K10GF, was in charge of the operation this year and is to be

commended for his efforts. In addition to making all the arrangements (and finding us some tables when at the last minute the mall decided not to provide them) he also made up many of the signs we used. Mort Cohan, KA1IU, as mentioned above provided us with an OSCAR display and was on hand several nights to help out. David Curry, K1TK, Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, and Nels Anderson, K1UR, provided equipment in addition to being at the mall as operators many nights. Also active were David Kent, N2AWG, C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, Bill Downing, WA1PQY, Ed Loring, KA1CJE, Dick Magnanti, AK1I, Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, and Saul Dinman, K1PDX. If your name isn't on this list, you sure missed a fun week.

Special thanks go to all the area traffic handlers who took the 800 messages we generated. Almost every traffic handler in Eastern Massachusetts got involved to some extent, plus several in 2-land.

One footnote to this operation should be added. We did attempt to operate from Wellesley the day after we put down in Natick, as the Chamber of Commerce had asked. Unfortunately, we were put in a very out of the way spot and as a result had almost no luck at all attracting business. □

CHUCKLE KORNER

"SONOVAGUN"

--from ARNS Bulletin, 11/80

I flipa da switch, but shesa no run!
Thesa radio, shesa sonovagun!
Shesa stop in da middle of da QSO
And I blow and I whistle, but shesa no go.
I talka myself and shaka da box
But all I get is da KW shocks.
I look all around and cheka relay
You should be glad nobody hear what I say!
Den I look to see if it's da VFO
Yes! Dat is it, and den it is no.
I looka to see if something is loose
And den I see dat I gota no juice.
I looka again, AH! What do I see?
Da sonovagun, shesa on da CW key. □

RUMORS...RUMORS

by Ralph V. Anderson, KØNL
ARNS Bulletin, 11/80

It seems that this country abounds with rumors, none of which bear any resemblance to the truth. But they just keep going on and on and on!

We have previously discussed the item of how the word HAM got started (three with initials of H, A, and M, etc.). There was not one iota of truth in this, yet I first heard of it some 25 years ago, and it is still being published today. The ARRL has shown that Ham was used long before this, and that no account of such a Congressional Committee meeting was ever found.

Now it would appear that we have another one in our hands. This concerns an item about the danger of cigarette lighters. This story goes that two men were killed when sparks from welding torches hit the cases. The Union Pacific Railroad has issued a press release denying that anyone was ever injured, and the statement about the explosion being equal to three sticks of dynamite. So let's kill this one as soon as we can.

To show how these things linger, thirty years ago there was a great activity in collecting cigarette packages for seeing eye dogs. It was denied by all companies, and the Seeing Eye Dog Trainers all stated that there was plenty of money for dogs; the trouble was that they didn't have the dogs. Those who collected found they had no place to redeem the packages. Guess what! Just last week there was a lad going from house to house collecting packages to pay for a Seeing Eye Dog! Thirty years! □

hr REPORT

"The World of Amateur Radio" has won the gold medal as the best industrial film in the "Hobbies and Recreation" category at the prestigious National Film and TV Festival in New York. Congratulations to Dave Bell and his crew!

hr Report, November 21, 1980□

FROM THE MAILBAG

To All Eastern Mass. Clubs:

I'm writing to discuss several things one of which is the recent increase in the cost of Amateur Radio Call Letter License Plates and describe some action I have taken to initiate corrective measures. First, let's set the record straight. Chapter 572 which passed the Legislature this year, empowered licensing agencies in Massachusetts (of which the Motor Vehicle Department is one) to set their own fees. Prior to this the annual fee for a call letter plate was $9.00 per year. This consisted of $7.00 for a regular registration and an additional $2.00 for the "Special Number Plate" which is the classification under which they fall. Since Chapter 572 went into effect the regular registration was increased from $7.00 to $10.00 and the "Special Number Plate" went from $2.00 to $10.00. The result was a wopping annual increase from $9.00 to $20.00 and it is in effect now.

The only way to correct this is through the legislative process. As such I have contacted my representative Mr. Michael Rea (a former Novice) and he has agreed to file legislation to specifically exempt Amateur Radio operators from any additional charge for Call Letter Plates over and above the current normal registration fee that all motorists must now pay of $10.00. He fully understands the significance of the plates during emergencies when they identify us to Public Safety officials etc.

This process will take some time and public hearings will probably not begin until after the first of the year. We will publicize this as widely as possible since it will be mandatory for us to present a strong physical presence during the hearings. I am also engaging the help of our friends in Western Mass. through W1KK the WM SCM.

It is not too soon to call your local representative about the pending legislation even though there is no number assigned yet. Let's start thinking about and putting into action some political lobbying of our own. Ask your rep to help Mike with the legislation. Don't expect that someone e[illegible] is going to write and make phone calls for you. Even if you don't presently have Call Letter Plates this legislation would make them more attractive to you and if you do have them and don't want to pay $20.00/year get moving now. Apathy will get us absolutely nowhere. Do your part for all Amateurs in Massachusetts by buttonholing your rep. I'm including a list of current legislators to make this task a little easier. The rest is up to you.

On another matter, there has been a lot of concern recently about malicious interference and rightfully so. This concern is based on the idea that not only is it illegal but a large part of the concern is due to the belief that the malady is on the increase. During the Convention in Boxboro recently I had a chance to talk with Mr. Kajunski the Engineer In Charge from FCC Boston. During this and subsequent conversations we have developed a plan for decreasing the reaction time of the FCC to the hard core malicious interferer. I am not going to outline this plan in detail here but I can tell you that its success will depend on a lot of support from the hams in the immediate area of the interference. If there is suspicion of interference in your area and I hear about it, I'll be in touch with the leadership of your club to ask for the club's support. I hope you'll help.

Finally I would like to get a feeling from your club as to how you would feel about an organization of Eastern Mass. Radio Clubs. Such an organization would coordinate efforts in the areas of license plate fees, malicious interference etc. Maybe we could organize a section-wide flea market, auction or mini-hamfest in years when the N.E. Division Convention is not in East Mass. What do you think? Would your club be willing to assign a representative to such an organization and send him to periodic meetings? Woul your club support such an organization financially? Is the idea worth an initial meeting? If I don't hear

group I'll assume you think it's a lousy idea.

73,

Richard P. Beebe, K1PAD
Section Comm. Manager
EMass Section, ARRL

PARTIAL LIST OF LOCAL REPS:

Businger, John A. (D)
33 St. Paul St., Brookline 02146
Cochran, Deborah R. (R)
800 High St., Dedham 02026
Cohen, David B. (D)
300 Tremont St., Newton 02158
DeNucci, A. Joseph (D)
119 Warwick Rd., Newton 02158
Galvin, William F. (D)
32 Ranelegh Rd., Brighton 02135
Gray, Barbara E. (R)
220 Edmands Rd., Framingham 01704
Larkin, Robert F., Jr. (D)
72 Clark Circle, Needham 02192
Mofenson, David J. (D)
6 Alban Rd., Newton 02168
Nickinello, Louis R., (D)
68 Pine St., Natick 01760
Rogers, Andrew J., Jr. (D)
15 Gannon Ter., Framingham 01701
Witzler, Royall H. (R)
18 Lexington Rd., Wellesley 02181

hr REPORT

Plain language Amateur rules got the Commissioners' nod, along with some nice comments about both the Amateur Service and the staff's work on the rewrite job. The proposed new Part 97 has four part: Part A, The Amateur Radio Service; Part B, The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service; Part C, The Amateur Satellite Service; and Part D, Technical Standards common to all three services.

Three important changes are in the proposed new rules. One: All log keeping requirements are deleted. Two: The Communications Act Section 303 requirement that an Amateur make his station available to the Commission for inspection is incorporated in the new Part 97. Three: Every Amateur would be required to keep a copy of Part 97 in his station.

hr Report, November 21, 1980

A probe into Amateur licensing improprieties dating back to 1976, when the August 15 issue of the Indianapolis Star ran a long article headlined "FBI PROBES HAM RADIO SCANDAL," is finally coming to a head. In a November 6 release, the Private Radio Bureau Chief ordered 13 Amateurs, 10 of them from Indianapolis or vicinity, to show cause why their station licenses should not be revoked, and suspended their operators licenses. Another, whose license is up for renewal, is under review.

All 14 are alleged to have "fraudulently obtained or attempted to obtain new or upgraded Amateur licenses without examination" by the Commission in PR Dockets 80-668 through 80-682.

hr Report, November 14, 1980□

OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT:
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RECORDING SECRETARY:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 323-5029
TREASURER:
Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, 254-6042
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:
Glenn Brodie, N1ACN, 443-8677
FUND RAISING:
Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341
EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:
Bill Downing, WA1PQY, 655-3040
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR:
David Curry, K1TK, 756-5325
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:
Mort Cohen, KA1IU, 359-7979
ELECTION COMMITTEE:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
STATION MANAGER:
Erik J. Thoresen, K1OGF, 653-1216
TRUSTEE:
Lud Fasolino, K1LF, 237-0316
REPEATER COMMITTEE:
David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450
Bill Downing, WA1PQY, 655-3040
Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, 235-1599

The Spark Gap

WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

324 Washington Street
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts 02181

SPEAKER JANUARY 22:
Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, on the use of test equipment.

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